12.	Aligarh	Uttar Pradesh	Brass Locks
13.	Agra	Uttar Pradesh	Leather footwear
14.	Khurja	Uttar Pradesh	Pottery
15.	Kanchipuram	Tamilnadu	Silk
16.	Sivakasi	Tamilnadu	Safety match
17.	Salem	Tamilnadu	Handtool
18.	Ambala	Haryana	Scientific instruments
19.	Jamnagar	Gujarat	Brass Parts
20.	Rajkot	Gujarat	Engine Pump
21.	Vapi-Ankleshwar	Gujarat	Chemicals
22.	Batala	Punjab	Machine Tools
23.	Bhagalpur	Bihar	Weaving

Problem of Unemployment and Backwardness

21. SHRI JANARDHAN YADAV: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any concrete scheme has been formulated by Government to solve the problems of backwardness and unemployment in the rural areas of Bihar, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat and other backward States;

(b) if so, what are the salient features thereof;

(c) whether any survey has been conducted in this regard; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) and (b) States are not categorised either as backward or non-backward. However it is recognised that areas/districts within states may be backward defined in terms of alternative criteria.

While no concrete scheme as such has been formulated by the government for tackling the problem of backwarness and unemployment, the government is committed to the eradication of poverty and achievement of full employment within a reasonable time frame. As stated in the Eighth Plan, in order to achieve a situation of near full employment, additonal employment must be generated in the process of growth itself. However, in the short-run to the extent that the growth process 'bypasses' certain sections of society, it is necessary to provide supplementary employment and income to the poor through state intervention. Three major centrally sponsored poverty alleviation schemes are being implemented in rural areas of Bihar, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat and several other states/UTs. these are (i) Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP); (ii) Jawahar Razgar Yojana (JRY); (iii) Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS).

The IRDP seeks to provide assistance to poor households in order to enable them to acquire assets for self employment. It is based on part subsidy and part credit from the banks. The target group consists largely of small and marginal farmers, agricultural labourers and rural artisans living below the poverty line. TRYSEM is a sub-scheme under IRDP which aims at providing technical skills to rural youth in the age group 18 to 35 in order to equip them to take up income generating activities. DWCRA is another sub component of IRDP which is focussed on women living below the poverty line. Through a strategy of group formation it aims to improve women's access to basic services as well as enable them to take up economic activities.

The JRY is a wage employment programme where the main objective is the generation of additional gainful employment for the unemployed and underemployed rural people, on public works which would lead to creation of rural infrastructure and assets for more sustained employment.

This programme was modified in 1993-94 and is now implemented in 3 streams. Under the 1st stream funds are earmarked for the Million Well Scheme and Indira Awaas Yojana at the State level; the remaining funds are allocated to districts on an index of backwardness. This index gives 50 per cent weightage to the proportion of rural SC/ST population in a district to total SC/ST population in the State and 50 per cent to the inverse of per capita production of the agricultural workers in the district. At the district level 20 per cent funds are retained and the remaining 80 per cent are allocated to the village panchayats by giving 60 per cent weightage to the SC/ST population and 40 per cent to the total population of the panchayat.

The Second Stream of JRY namely Intensified Jawahar Rozgar Yojana has been introduced in 120 backward districts where there is concentration of unemployment and underemployment. The selection of these 120 backward districts has been made on the basis of index of backwardness criteria adopted under the first stream as stated above. These 120 backward districts are in 12 States viz., Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, J & K, Karnataka. Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. Funds under this stream are retained at the district level for undertaking works which can provide sustained employment to the people. These works include irrigation, social conservation, water harvesting works, farm forestry, construction of roads, primary school, primary markets etc. From 1995-96, 50 per cent of the funds are earmarked for taking up activities within a watershed plan.

Under the 3rd stream of the JRY a small proportion of the total funds are earmarked for special and innovative projects on a limited scale.

A new scheme called the Employment Assurance Scheme was launched in 1993-94 in 1752 identified backward blocks situated in drought prone, desert, tribal and hill areas, in which the revamped public distribution system was in operation. The EAS has now been extended to cover 2446 blocks of the country in all States and UTs excluding Goa, Punjab, Chandigarh, Delhi and Pondicherry. The additional blocks include the new DPAP and DDP blocks. MADA blocks and the flood prone areas of the country. Under this scheme assured employment for 100 days of unskilled manual work has to be provided to those who are seeking it, during the lean agricultural season. The secondary objective is the creation of rural infrastructure and community assets. Minor irrigation works, rural roads, primary school buildings and anganwadis can be constructed under this programme. Furthermore from 1995-96 50 per cent of funds have been earmarked for taking up works under watershed development.

While allocations for IRDP and JRY (1st stream) are made to States on the basis of incidence of poverty the respective States: EAS is a need-based programme and therefore no Statewise allocations are made. The States can demand funds in consonance with the demand of employment works in their districts.

(c) and (d) No survey has been conducted exclusively on the problems of backwardness and enemployment in the rural areas of Bihar, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat and other States. However the National Sample Survey Organisation conducts comprehensive surveys on consumer expenditure and on employment and unemployment both in the rural and urban areas of the country, generally once in every 5 years. The latest estimates of poverty and unemployment are available for 1987-88. However the last detailed survey for employment and unemployment was conducted in the 50th round of NSS covering the period July 1993 to June 1994, the results of this survey are not yet available.